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Interreport-Ost, No 227.

## BULGARIAN LIVING CONDITIONS: PRICES OF COMMODITIES

## Living Conditions on Cooperative Labor Farms

According to reports of refugees who arrived in Bulgaria during the first weeks of 1953, the relationship between Bulgarian farmers and the ruling regime has become even more strained during the past year.

The 1952 harvest was very poor. Last summer's drought continued into October and, without appreciable rainfalls, the weather became freezing and fall sowing was extremely difficult. In the TKZS (cooperative labor farms), however, crop failures could not be blamed solely on the drought. Lack of ambition is not surprising in view of the fact that in many regions TKZS members earn only 2 to 3 leva per day (in addition to a grain ration). In many TKZS, farmers simply refused to work, and militia detachments had to be called out to force them to work. Many farmers were arrested. They were not imprisoned, but were employed as farmhands without pay on their own TKZS. Five days of forced farm labor constituted the mildest form of punishment. Farmers who offered particularly stubborn resistance were deported, together with their families. Extreme resistance and violent clashes were reported in the villages Boynitsa and Knezha ir Oryakhovo Okoliya, and in Morava, Tragomirovo, ami Koslovets in Svishtov O'nliya.

Farmers' incomes vary greatly, depending on the calculation of working hours at the various TKZS. Farm wages fluctuate, depending on the crops and on the quantity and quality of agricultural products. Usually only the faithful followers of the regime are credited with a large number of workdays, while the average TKZS member is paid for only 160 to 250 workdays per year. Last year, the average four-member family in a TKZS had an income of approximately 500 leva in cash and 1,000 kilograms of grain. According to official Bulgarian statistics, farmers' average per capita consumption in 1942 was as folk 's:

Grain (wheat, corn, and rye)

Potatoes

16 kg

Sugar

3 kg

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21 kg Milk and dairy products 85 kg Fats 8 kg Fruit and vegetables 75 kg Eggs

80 --

The foregoing shows that a family of four uses the major part of 1,000 kilograms of grain for home consumption. After the latest currency reform May 1952, the following prices, per kilogram, were established for surplus agricultural products after delivery of the quota:

Commodity	Free Market Prices (in leva)	Government Retail Prices (in leva)
White flour	3.50	6.80
Ordinary flour	2.00	4.10
Sheep's milk cheese	10.00	13.60
011	13.00	16.00
Lard	18.00	22.00
Butter	20.00	30.00
<sup>T</sup> ggs	0.50 (per egg)	0.80 (per egg)

## State Prices for Miscellaneous Commudities

The Bulgarian Government pays the following prices, per kilogram, for red rose petals (for the manufacture of rose oil):

Time of Delivery	Price (in leva)
Before 0900 hours	4.00
Before 1100 hours	3.60
Before 1200 hours	3.20
After 1200 hours	2.00

The prices paid for white rose petals are, respectively, 50 percent lower.

The government pays the following prices, per kilogram, for wool:

<u>Type</u>	Price (in leva)
Merino wool	22.00
Merino wool, poorer grade	20,00
Improved, standard grade wool	14.40

**STAT** 



Туре

Medium-coarse wool

Very Coarse wool

Coarse wool

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Price (in leva)

11.60

In 1952, the state established the following prices, For kilogram, for silkworm cocoons:

Туре	Price <u>(in le</u> va)
Odrin type, white, average grade	15.00
Odrin type, white, first grade	17.60
Odrin type, white, second grade	16.80
Yellow, first grade	18.00
Yellow, average grade	16.80
Bulgarian type, improved, white, first grade	16.80
Bulgarian type, improved, white, second grade	15.20

**STAT** 

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